



March 23, 2017

To: Federal Communications Commission

From: Arkansas Telephone Company, Inc.

Re: Forbearance Notification

WC Docket No. 11-42 – Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization

Arkansas Telephone Company, Inc. (Artelco; SAC 401692) hereby notifies the FCC that it is availing itself of forbearance relief granted by the *Lifeline Modernization Order*¹ from the obligation to offer Lifeline-supported broadband Internet access service.

Artelco is an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) that receives Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) support in Arkansas. The Company elects forbearance relief for those census blocks in its study area that are not funded under A-CAM. The Company does not receive high-cost support for those unfunded census blocks and is not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations in them. What follows is the information the Wireline Competition Bureau has requested in these notifications.²

1. *Carrier Name*: Arkansas Telephone Company, Inc.

¹ *Lifeline and Link Up Reform and Modernization et al.*, WC Docket No. 11-42 et al., Third Report and Order, Further Report and Order, and Order on Reconsideration, 31 FCC Rcd 3962 (2016) (*Lifeline Modernization Order*). In particular, the *Lifeline Modernization Order* forbore from requiring high-cost support recipients to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in areas where they are not receiving high-cost support or are not subject to high-cost public interest broadband obligations. *Id.*, 31 FCC Rcd 4074-75, paras. 309, 311, 312.

² *Wireline Competition Bureau Provides Guidance Regarding Filing Procedures for Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Seeking to Invoke Forbearance Granted by Lifeline Modernization Order*, WC Docket No. 11-42, Public Notice, 31 FCC Rcd 12672 (2016).

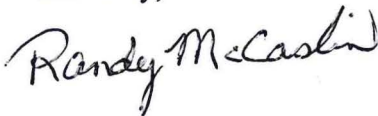
2. *ETC Designation Information*

- a) *ETC Designation Order:* Arkansas Public Service Commission; In the Matter of Determining Eligible Telecommunications Carriers in Arkansas; Docket No. 97-236-U; Order No. 2; November 7, 1997.
- b) *Designating Authority:* Arkansas Public Service Commission
- c) *Type of Designation:* High-cost support recipient (*i.e.*, not Lifeline-only)
- d) *Date of ETC Designation:* November 7, 1997

3. *Areas Where ETC Seeks Forbearance:* The Excel file that accompanies this notification contains a list of the census blocks, in numerical order by FIPS code, where Artelco is availing itself of forbearance relief. The listed census blocks are all those within the Company's ETC-designated service area that are not funded under A-CAM.
4. *Date and Reason for Change:* Artelco received its first A-CAM support payment on February 28, 2017. Therefore, as of that date, the Company no longer receives high-cost support for census blocks within its designated service area that are not funded under the model and is not subject to broadband public interest obligations in those blocks.
5. *Information on Areas Where Carrier Elects to Offer Broadband:* Notwithstanding the forbearance relief Artelco is claiming for its census blocks that do not receive A-CAM support, the Company still intends to offer Lifeline-supported broadband in those blocks to the extent qualifying service is available.

Please feel free to contact me at 501-745-2114 or randymcc@artelco.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Randy McCaslin
Arkansas Telephone Company
President